



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ANNOUNCES 1981 STEEL SHOT ZONES

Steel shot zones covering portions of 26 States were announced today by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of its continuing effort to reduce lead poisoning in waterfowl.

About 20 percent of the waterfowl harvest in the United States occurs within these zones. They were identified in cooperation with the individual States.

This year's regulations differ from those in previous years because they are "basic" rather than "annual" rules. "Basic" rules remain in effect from year to year, with only specific changes--such as adding or deleting a particular zone--having to be proposed as needed. This procedural change was made to reduce the uncertainty associated with the demand for either lead or steel shot ammunition. "Annual" regulations also created a problem for the suppliers of ammunition, because shotshells are normally ordered during the winter for sale during the following fall.

The final steel shot zones were announced in the August 13, 1981, Federal Register. Detailed descriptions of the zones will also be listed in news releases to be issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service's regional offices. The States in which the steel shot zones occur are:

Atlantic Flyway:

-- Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia.

over

Mississippi Flyway:

-- Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Michigan,
Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

Central Flyway:

-- Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Texas.

(Steel shot zones in Colorado and South
Dakota, concurred in by the Fish and Wildlife
Service, will be described in State
regulations rather than Federal regulations.)

Pacific Flyway:

-- Oregon and Washington.

Regulations regarding the use of non-toxic shot on certain units of the
National Wildlife Refuge System will be published separately.

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